



THE GREEN SCENE

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich Recognizes County's First LEED-EB Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for Placerita Canyon Nature Center



L-R: Pamela Cook, Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates (PCNCA) Recording Secretary; Frank Hoffman, Recreation Services Supervisor Placerita Canyon Natural Area; Russ Kimura, Superintendent, Placerita Canyon Natural Area; Stephanie Ericson, Project Manager, Pugh+Scarpa; Mayor Michael D. Antonovich; Reg Fear, PCNCA Board Member; Hayden Sohm, Deputy Director Regional Facilities, L.A. County Parks and Recreation; Jim Smith, Development Chief, L.A. County Parks and Recreation; Gwynne Pugh, Project Architect, Pugh+Scarpa; Jim Southwell, PCNCA President; David Howard, Assistant Director, L.A. County Public Works; Russ Guiney, Director, L.A. County Parks and Recreation

The Los Angeles County Placerita Canyon Nature Center and Natural Area was recognized by Los Angeles County Mayor, Michael D. Antonovich and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for being the first Los Angeles County facility to earn a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – Existing Building (LEED-EB), Silver-Rated Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. This certification marks unprecedented achievements in design and development of environmentally responsible facilities, services and programs.

The Placerita Nature Center building was originally constructed in 1971 with renovations that included accessibility upgrades in compliance with current ADA requirements, a new gift shop; energy and water conservation features, including energy efficient air conditioning and cooling systems, exterior building wall insulations, new roofs, renovated restrooms, windows and doors, septic system/leach field, court yard, and interior remodeling.

To reach LEED Certification, renovations at the facility mandated that we used material containing low volatile organic compounds, used rapidly renewable material, recycled material and certified wood, that the construction ensured energy efficiency and water conservation in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council guidelines.

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard on this project!

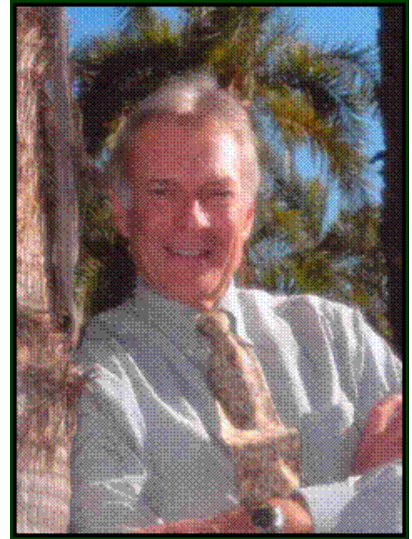
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Greetings from the Director

As the weather turns warmer, more activity abounds across our Department. The onset of spring seems an appropriate time to take a close look at our Department, take stock in what we have and inventory our assets for the near future. In the next few weeks, Chief Deputy Director John Wicker and I will be visiting all the Department's Agencies to hold group meetings with each and every one of you. It is our hope that this time together will give you a better understanding of the state of the Department and the County, where we are headed and important issues and ongoing goals. It will also give us the valuable opportunity to thank you in person, for your hard work and dedication at making the Department of Parks and Recreation one of the best in the County, and one that the public values and enhances their quality of life. See you all very soon.

Parks Make Life Better! and each of you make parks better!



Russ Guiney, Director

Tanya Finney Promoted to Superintendent at South Coast Botanic Garden



Congratulations to Tanya Finney who was recently promoted to Park Superintendent at the beautiful South Coast Botanic Garden. Tanya began with the Department 10 years ago, as a Plant Nursery Worker at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, where she enjoyed working with dedicated volunteers and co-workers.

She then accepted a position as Arboretum Gardener at the South Coast Botanic Garden in 2006 where she continued her horticultural experience and her love of working with enthusiastic volunteers and staff. She was then given the opportunity to serve as the Acting Superintendent in 2010.

Tanya loves gardening but she also loves her newly adopted rescue dog Kaylee and enjoys taking him for long walks along the beach on her days off!

Regional Operations Manager, Kimel Conway says, "Tanya has been an arboretum gardener at South Coast for several years now and the leadership skills she has demonstrated in this capacity have far exceeded that of a gardener. Her commendable work on last year's 50th anniversary celebration for the garden clearly showed her broad vision, careful stewardship and passion for South Coast. It is a pleasure to be able to promote this highly skilled professional to the position of Superintendent at this facility. She is truly a great asset to the garden and the Department!"

**Congratulations
Tanya!**

California Park and Recreation Society Awards

The California Park and Recreation Society's (CPRS) Annual Park Training Conference, entitled *empower, engage, explore* was held in Sacramento, California on March 8, 9 and 10, 2011. DPR was honored with an Award of Excellence in the awards category of Agency Showcase in the population category of 100,001+ for the beautiful *Parks After Dark (PAD)* logo which was created by Shane Savanapridi, Video Production Specialist. Mika Yamamoto, Unincorporated Areas Liaison, had an opportunity to talk to conference attendees from other park agencies about the PAD logo and the PAD Program while representing the department at the *Best of the Best Showcase* which featured many conference award winners. Director Russ Guiney was awarded the CPRS Citation Award which recognized his outstanding contributions to the parks and recreation profession.



Kaye Michelson, Special Assistant; Mika Yamamoto, Unincorporated Areas Liaison and Russ Guiney, Director accept the Award of Excellence on behalf of Shane Savanapridi for the Parks After Dark Logo

**Congratulations
Russ Guiney & Shane Savanapridi!**



Russ Guiney receives the Citation Award from CPRS Executive Director Jane H. Adams

Descanso Gardens Named One of the Top Ten Gardens in the World by National Geographic and One of the Top 20 Spring Daytrips by Sunset Magazine

Descanso Gardens has been named one of the top 10 gardens in the world in National Geographic's *"The 10 Best of Everything"* book. Descanso Gardens is one of only two gardens located in the United States to receive this prestigious honor. National Geographic calls Descanso Gardens a "bucolic paradise." "It's wonderful to learn that Descanso Gardens is considered by some to be not only a Los Angeles County treasure, but a worldwide treasure, too! There are many, many important and beautiful gardens in the world and it's high honor indeed to be included among them," said David R. Brown, Executive Director, Descanso Gardens.



Sunset Magazine also named Descanso Gardens as one of the Top 20 Spring Daytrips.



16 Cherries get their own party

The first annual **Cherry Blossom Festival** (\$8) is kicking off at Descanso Gardens, the classic 150-acre botanical oasis **near Pasadena**. Stop by March 19 or 20 for a guided tour of the flowering cherry trees, watch a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, and try a bento-box lunch (\$) paired with a Cherry-Tini cocktail. But cherry trees are really just the beginning—tulips, daffodils, and camellias are in full bloom this month too. Look for free garden tool-sharpening seminars and an outdoor yoga retreat (Mar 12; \$80). descansogardens.org —NINA ELDER

Dog Found at Peter F. Schabarum Park Reunited with Long-Lost Family

Staff at Peter F. Schabarum found a lost, sick and dirty Beagle roaming around in the "natural area" of the park. Connie Douglas, Regional Park Superintendent, called Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control and told them about the Beagle. The dog touched Connie's heart and she wanted the dog to find her lost family or to find a new loving home through the monthly pet adoption program at the park. Lance Hunter, Manager of the Baldwin Park Animal Shelter tells us that shelter staff were able to detect a microchip and found out that the dog was stolen, when the dog was an 8 month-old puppy. The original owner was called and reunited with their beloved lost pet after 6 years. Great job Connie Douglas and Schabarum Park Staff!



HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

Wow! The new playground equipment and shredded bark material is an incredible addition to our Two Strike Park. So many families and "little ones" will benefit and enjoy this addition for years to come. You have everyone in our community "buzzin" over the equipment, the bark, and the shaders. My daughter and our grandchildren visit the park every day to check on the progress and come home more excited than the previous day. Kathleen, you and the Parks Department have always supported our community...ALWAYS! The relationship we have with you, Al Evans, and of course, Supervisor Mike Antonovich is why it works as well as it does.

Steve Pierce
La Crescenta, CA

On behalf of my tennis friends I would like to thank you for the beautiful tennis courts at Cerritos Regional Park. We are enjoying the nice, clean, and friendly painted courts. It feels like we are playing at a resort. Thank you very much.

Mavbel Low
Cerritos, CA

Many years ago, you were my little league coach at Roy Campanella Park. Like most men my age, occasionally I take time to reflect back on my younger years, especially my childhood. Having lost my father at an early age created a big void in my life. However, thanks to Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation and its talented staff, I always had somewhere to go, something positive to do and I also received valuable coaching, guidance, and advice that would carry me both on and off the field. THANK YOU, for many years of continued service to parks and to our community and thank you again, for the time you spent, and the impact you had on my life Coach **Roy Williams!**

Frank J. Jollivette II
California State University Bakersfield

CORRECTION

In the last issue of *The Green Scene* we recognized Camille Johnson and Lillie Munoz-Ledo for 25 years of service with Los Angeles County. Camille and Lillie actually have 30 years of service. Congratulations to you both!

GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our Department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to iperius@parks.lacounty.gov and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of *The Green Scene*.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"



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